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October 17, 2000

US Food & Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20785

RE: Docket number 98P-0151/CP1.

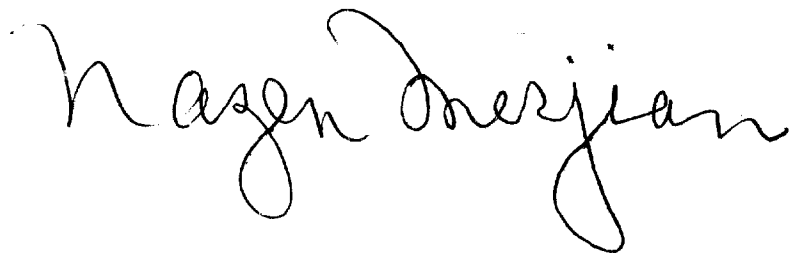
We urge you to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

These animals are sick and injured and should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. There is also evidence that they may be afflicted with a form of BSE.

In addition, it is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains. These are inhumane acts causing the animals great pain and broken bones.

90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. There must be some incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Sincerely,

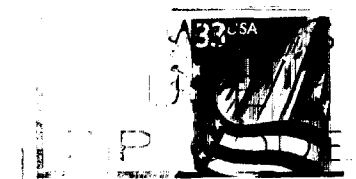
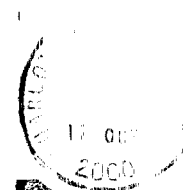
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nazen Merjian". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nazen Merjian
VFA

98P-0151

C 2381

VOICES FOR ANIMALS
170 Rugby Road
Charlottesville VA 22903



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Rockville, MD 20785

Attn.: Docket
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